Replica

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 2 Chapter 6

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Afterwords

Thanks to everyone who bought (or borrowed) Replica volume 2! Am I? T- those readers who flipped open the dust jacket by accident, hello. I'm Karakara Kemuri. What are my Afterwords... Hmm, what should I write? It's so perplexing. And as I'm going on, the blank space is getting smaller and smaller... I was a little too optimistic about the spacing, now it's become so tight. I hope in the volume I can do the stories with a little more content and will be able to let the readers get what I'm trying to express... It always makes me feel like apologizing to the readers when I say stuff like that. See you in volume 3! (So cramped!)

H森さま
Y田さま
家族

and You!

The Secret Pain of Tadpoles

Tadpole, oh tadpole, today you must be in the water again, sighing to yourself in secret...
Actually, tadpoles want to fly but can't
They really want to soar so badly. But it'd be reported as a world wonder

Someone with zero learning ability is so annoying!
That's really sad! Why don't you believe him?
Amazing!
And then the tadpole will become a butterfly.

Nickname

Then what about that guy?
See, everyone's got a nickname. It's cuter that way
Sattsu -> Sattsun
Karu -> Karucchi
Himechyo -> Hime
Yuri -> Ojichan*
Zenri -> Megane*
*Megane - Glasses
*Ojichan - a very casual form of Grandfather

card : 6 3 FACADE WORLD

card : 7 39 CONTRARY CITY

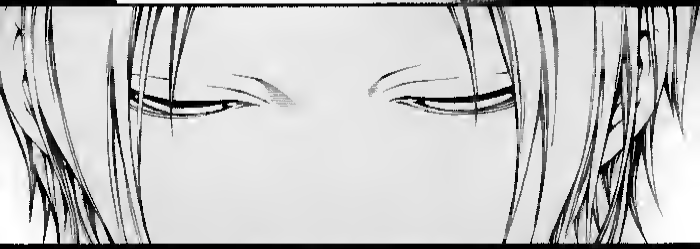
card : 8 77 MARCH HARE

card : 9 113 TWISTED TEA PARTY

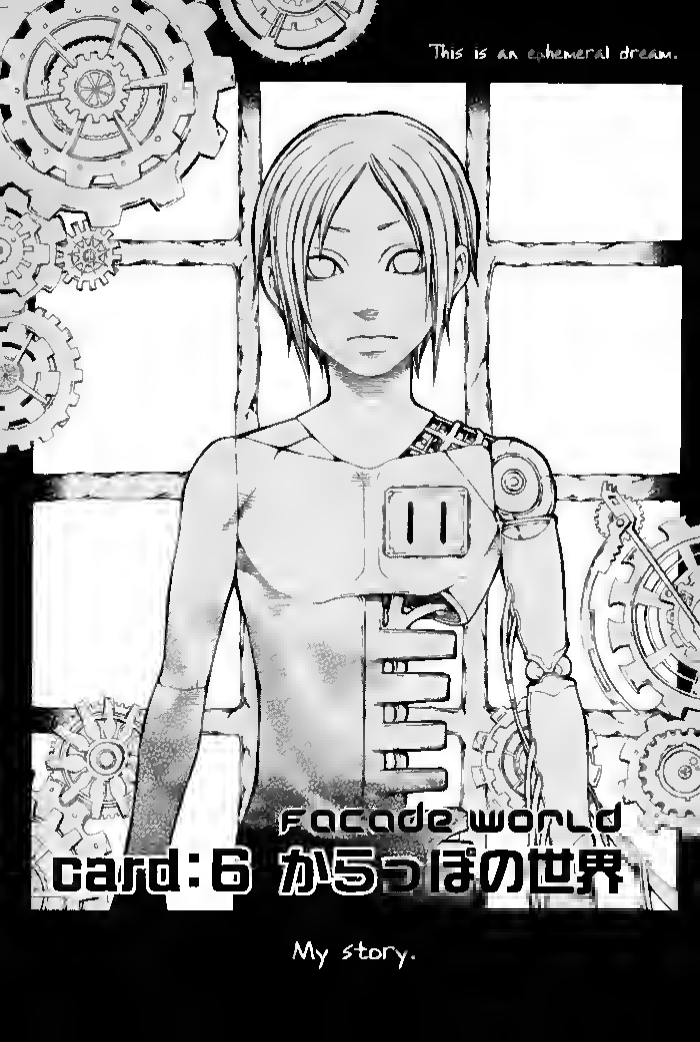
card : 10 147 CONTRARY CITY'S MR. HATTER

My world is a facade.

dark eyes that reflect nothing,
drift around and laugh in my memories.



...So obviously a facade...


This is an ephemeral dream.
Facade world
card:6 からっぽの世界
My story.

...!
throb
Karu!
you...
AH, THIS ONE'S OUT TOO.
thud
throb
What the hell is...
dizzy
dizzy
dizzy
What...
What's this?
SO...
grab
...AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NOT HUMAN.
JUST A DOLL MADE TO BE A SCAPEGOAT FOR MY PACT HOLDER

AGAIN WITH THIS! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT CONDITION YOU'RE IN RIGHT NOW!?
WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE TO REFUSE!? DO YOU WANT TO DIE!?
I DON'T NEED IT...
fwish
TCH
IF THAT'S SO
slide
I DON'T NEED IT
grip
If that's so, then stay that way and die

Rose Guns Days
flip
OK!
nod
SIGH, THIS DOESN'T SOLVE ANYTHING
SORRY HIME-COMBO, COULD I TROUBLE YOU TWO?
sfx:whoooosh
hum
!?
HEHE, SURPRISED? I'M A DOLL, TOO
...HUH?
MY POWER IS "CHANGE" HIME'S BLOOD ALLOWS ME TO SWITCH BETWEEN FIVE DIFFERENT PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES ♪

Doctor huh? No matter how many times I see it I still think it's really convenient
LET'S SEE HERE
WHOA, SUCH SERIOUS BURNS!
Eep!
roll
SATT-SUN BRING WATER, WATER!
Damn it
DON'T WORRY! WHEN I'M USING MY POWERS, I'M A VERY PROFESSIONAL DOCTOR!
DID YOU HEAR ME?
HEY
I can't hear you...
"CHANGE"
MODE:-Doctor
"TOY"?
When did
I'm free!
who you call presence is limited to living things!
That is a TOY
Comes from hug
but has no presences at all
"DOLL"?
This guy I can't feel his presence at all

I don't get it.

Idiots.

AL-
RIGHT.
DONE

LEAV-
ING HIM
LIKE THAT,
IS THAT
REALLY
OKAY?

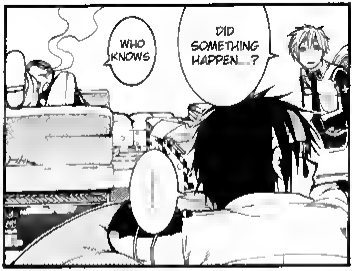
THANK
YOU.
DON'T
BE SILLY.
DOLLS
ARE MY
SPECIALTY.

KARU-
TAICHOU,
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

...Amidst the re-
generative ability...
IS THAT
SO? HE'LL
PROBABLY
WAKE UP IN
HIS OWN
TIME.
Ah...? You being a little too
casual.

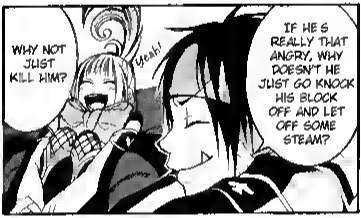
OH, THANKS
FOR YOUR
HARD WORK
HOW'S
AKAINU?
RIGHT
NOW
OUT
COLD
Hmm

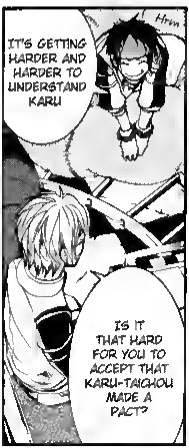
Ended on
PERHAPS HE
WAS ABLE TO DUCK
INTO A CORNER IN
THE NICK OF TIME
DURING THE EXPLO-
SION. ONLY HIS
BACK HAS SERIOUS
INJURIES ON IT
BUT
THE BURNS
ARE VERY
SEVERE THE
PAIN USUALLY
KEEPS YOU
AWAKE...
Or so it goes
hurt...


WHO KNOWS
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN...?

—I HAVE TO FINISH MY REPORT, EXCUSE ME

SAYING SUCH SCARY THINGS AGAIN...
SHIKA HIME...YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T SAY SUCH THINGS


WHY NOT JUST KILL HIM?
Yeah!
IF HE'S REALLY THAT ANGRY, WHY DOESN'T HE JUST GO KNOCK HIS BLOCK OFF AND LET OFF SOME STEAM?

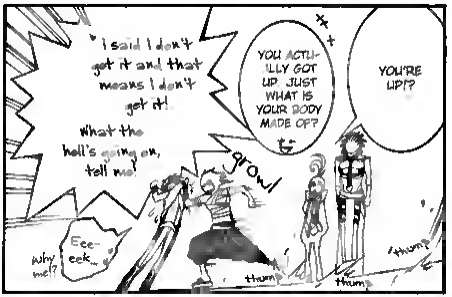

Hrm
IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO UNDERSTAND KARU
IS IT THAT HARD FOR YOU TO ACCEPT THAT KARU-TAICHOU MADE A PACT?

?
WHY?

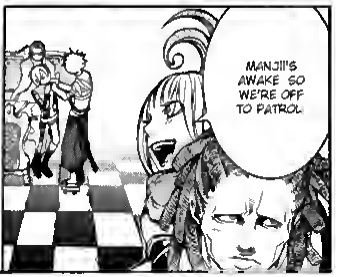
PUFF
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID WHEN FACING THE TOY.
HUH?
"PERFECT FOR PASSING THE TIME."
AAA's and his ideas of "passing the time", they're on completely opposite ends of the spectrum.
I JUST WANTED TO SEE JUST HOW STUPID HE COULD BE.
...I SEE. DEFINITELY NOT SOMETHING TO BE IGNORED.
HE SAID THOSE WORDS WHILE COVERED IN BLOOD. AND THEN HE GRINNED.

TAKE THIS WITH YOU HE LEFT IT
I HAVE NO OTHER MOTIVES...
YOU'RE GOING TO SEE HIM, RIGHT?
SOUNDS LIKE THAT GUY ALRIGHT
Passing the time
OHHH...
plomp
COVERED IN BLOOD
To pass the time by getting hit in the face
silence
SORRY, WE TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT
SFX: CRASH
Uwaaa

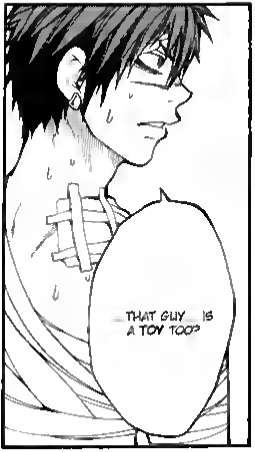
CALM DOWN.
kick


I said I don't get it and that means I don't get it!
What the hell's going on, tell me!
YOU ACTUALLY GOT UP. JUST WHAT IS YOUR BODY MADE OF?
YOU'RE UP!?
growl
Eee-eek...
Why me!?
thump
thump
thump

BYE-BYE, MANJII.
YOU'RE A HEAVILY INJURED PATIENT, SO DON'T GET TOO EXCITED.


MANJII'S AWAKE SO WE'RE OFF TO PATROL.

ME TOO!
WHAT!?


THAT GUY... IS A TOY TOO?

BE CAREFUL.
Go safely.
BEFORE LEAVING PLEASE TELL THE OTHERS YOUR DESTINATION
Huh? Varn where are you going?
bathroom

C...CALM DOWN! YOUR WOUNDS...!
Not a word!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
dizzy
dizzy
dizzy
Huh?
TOY
DOLL...
Oh well, as you've heard...
The four of us are all DOLLs created by AAA.
This guy too...

A dress-up doll's "CHANGE"
A marionette's "PUPPET"
A voodoo doll's "SCAPEGOAT"
YOU'VE SEEN KARU'S AND THE OTHERS' POWERS, RIGHT?
THESE ARE ALL THE PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS OF DOLL.

Please stop spouting nonsense like that.
CRACKING WALNUTS...
HIS CHARACTERISTICS ARE A SUPER STRONG GRIP AND STURDY BODY.
HE'S A NUTCRACKER.
BY THE WAY, I'M A SUPER AWESOME TIN TYPE ROBOT.

This guy is a doll...?
SO I DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE FACTS.
WELL, MY MODEL TYPE IS OLDER. IN OTHER WORDS, AN OLD-FASHIONED DOLL.
crack

DOLLS ARE FEWER IN NUMBER THAN MUD OR WOOD, BUT HAVE HIGHER INTELLIGENCE THAN TIN.
THEY CAN FEEL PAIN, AND POSSESS ALL FIVE SENSES.
SO THEY HAVE A SENSE OF SELF.
PRACTICALLY HUMAN. WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
AAA IS JUST SUCH AN AMAZING INVENTOR
AS LONG AS THE CORE ISN'T DESTROYED, WE DOLLS WILL CONTINUE BEING ACTIVE

WHAT ARE HIS DOLLS DOING HERE?
...YOU GUYS AREN'T SPIES, ARE YOU?
PFFH
NOT AT ALL
WE WERE THE ONES WHO CREATED CARDS
SPIES!?
WE CANNOT CONDONE AAA'S ACTIONS AND PHILOSOPHY.
FLOMP
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS OUR TARGET IS ALICE
BUT EVEN IF WE FIND THE PLACE, OBVIOUSLY, WE'RE STILL QUITE LACKING IN FORCES
...SORRY
Would you be willing to be the JOKER to our CARDS?
You are a very strong force.

I'm not one of you.
WHEN DID YOU GET THIS MADE?
Make no mistake, I'm just hired to do a job here.
clack
growl
!
Gah!

HOW 'BOUT WE USE FOOD AS BAIT?
Hehehe
LOOKS LIKE I'D BETTER GIVE HIM SOME FOOD
It's been two years since then.
creak
creak
creak
No, not even two years?
CHARGING HEADFIRST INTO THINGS...
WE COULD ALL LEARN FROM HIM
puff

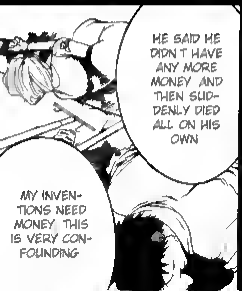
Are you still the same as before?
Creak
KARU
CREAK
Karu...

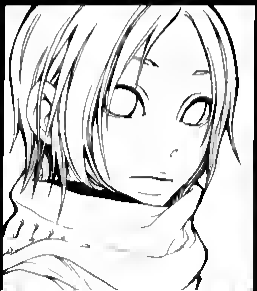
HI!
IT'S QUITE BORING INSIDE THERE ISN'T IT?
I'VE BROUGHT SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET HIM
THIS CHILD
I BEG OF YOU! MY DAUGHTER... THE DOCTOR SAID MY DAUGHTER ONLY HAS A FEW MORE DAYS LEFT TO LIVE...!
I WANT HER TO AT LEAST BE ABLE TO DIE WITHOUT BEING IN PAIN
P!OP
NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY IT TAKES, I'M WILLING TO PAY...! SO PLEASE!

STARTING TODAY, THIS PERSON'S CHILD IS YOUR PACT HOLDER.
Use your powers.
"scapegoat"
NGH!
It hurts.

IT... IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN AN EXPRESSION LIKE THIS...
SHE WAS IN SUCH PAIN...
Pant
It hurts.
THANK YOU SO MUCH...!
"You don't need to do any more than necessary."

THANK YOU
I'LL COME BACK LATER.
SHE MAY START FEELING PAIN AGAIN...


HE SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MORE MONEY AND THEN SUDDENLY DIED ALL ON HIS OWN
MY INVENTIONS NEED MONEY. THIS IS VERY CONFOUNDING



HI, KARU

BUT THAT'S ALRIGHT
I'LL BRING YOU SOMEONE NEW RIGHT AWAY
It hurts.
It hurts.
It hurts.
It hurts.
sfx: bam

I HATE SUCH PESKY PACTS
TH-THE FEE I CAN PAY IN POR-TIONS
NO NO YOU SHOULDN'T GO BACK ON YOUR WORD
AHAHA
Ah
Ah
Ah

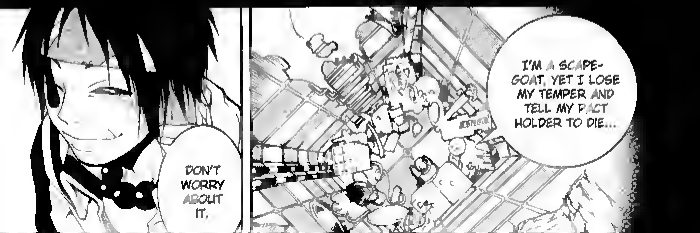
Karu.
Am
The first time I felt terror

Terror became hatred.
Hatred became fury.
Fury became terror.
Those three emotions, consumed everything.

I just want to get away from all of this.

Then ...and now.... Nothing has changed?
I'M STILL POWERLESS
KARU TALKING TO HIMSELF!? SHAME SHAME !
Hide
Hide
WHAT?
SUCH AN INTEREST-ING GUY
HE WAS ACTING WEIRD THOUGH SAYING SOME-THING ABOUT HOW "KARU ISN'T WEAK AND SICKLY AT ALL!"
That damn glasses guy lied to me!
Argh!
ZENRI, RIGHT?
Please calm down!
HUH? IF IT'S ABOUT THAT GUY, THEY'RE OVER THERE, TRYING TO LURE HIM IN WITH FOOD.
I DIDN'T ASK.
OH?

If that's the case, then stay that way and die!



Have you realized yet, Karu?
WELL, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU TRY SO HARD TO SAVE SOMEBODY.
Did I ask you?
RIGHT...
AS YOUR SENIOR, I HAVE TO SAY THAT I'M QUITE HAPPY TO SEE THIS.
SO?
LOSING YOUR TEMPER MEANS YOU'RE STILL JUST A KID.
...That you would be so extreme, must mean that you don't want to lose another pact holder.
DON'T FORGET, OKAY?
ANYWAY, I'M YOUR COMRADE.
Gotta go! Zenri's calling me...

*Fukutaichou = vice-captain
SPADES IS THE MAIN BATTLE FORCE,
WITH SATTSU-TAICHOU AND VARII-FUKUTAICHOU* AS THE LEADERS, EXTERMINATING TOYS
scribble
scribble
Sat
Vari
HEARTS ARE THE REINFORCEMENTS,
Shirahime
Himechiyo
CARDS
WITH SHIRAHIME-TAICHOU AND HIMECHIYO-FUKUTAICHOU AS THE CENTRAL AXIS, ASSISTING SPADES
Zenri
Nio
AND THEN THERE'S CLUBS, RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNICATING WITH HEADQUARTERS, AND HELPING THE OTHER GROUPS CLEAN UP AFTERWARDS
IT'S THE CORE OF CARDS THE MAIN COMMANDER IS ZENRI, I'M HIS ASSISTING OFFICER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
chew
chew
chew
scribble
SKETCHING A SIMPLE DIAGRAM OF THE CARDS GROUP MAKE-UP... MEMORIZE IT PLEASE.
scribble
scribble
scribble
scribble
EL
UMAH... THAT'S A BIT TOO OBVIOUS
clench
chew
HM.
(JUST "HM"?)
4 TEAMS
EACH TEAM WITH 13 MEMBERS FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 52 MEMBERS
PLEASE WORK WITH KARU-TAICHOU

LOOK AT ZENRI-SAN AND THE OTHERS, DO YOU FEEL ANYTHING?
WHEN YOU...
Tch!
NOT BECAUSE ZENRI-SAN AND THE OTHERS ARE DOLLS
I BELIEVE IN THEM AND DEPEND ON THEM, BUT THERE ARE JUST TIMES WHEN I GET SCARED
HUH?
...I FEEL TERRIFIED.
I'm afraid of those eyes, gazing into the distance...
Reflecting nothing...
Empty shell eyes.
You're annoying.
STAB
I KNOW THIS CAN'T CONTINUE, BUT I...
EVEN NOW I STILL CAN'T LOOK INTO THEIR EYES WHEN I SPEAK

I'm done.
Pa'ffle
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT
Heh
WHAT USE IS IT TELLING ME?
GO TELL THEM YOURSELF IDIOT
PLEASE DON'T FIGHT WITH KARU-TAICHOU!
MANJI-SAN
WHATEVER
WE DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE, AND THAT'S THAT
"If it's just one person, it's only logical to abandon such an endeavor."

Clome
HM... LOOKS TO BE TROUBLE
TOY
---NO NEED.
WHY DON'T SATTSU AND I GO?
Just let those two handle it.

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